

VOYAGE TO THE CENTER OF HELL!

image
257
DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN



SPAWN

TODD McFARLANE
STORY

SZYMON KUDRANSKI
ART

FCO PLASCENCIA
COLOR

TOM ORZECOWSKI
LETTERING

JONBOY
COVER ART

TODD McFARLANE
EDITOR / ART ASSISTS

Publishing Coordinator
SHANNON BAILEY

Art Director
BEN TIMMRECK

Production Artist
ANDY ARIAS

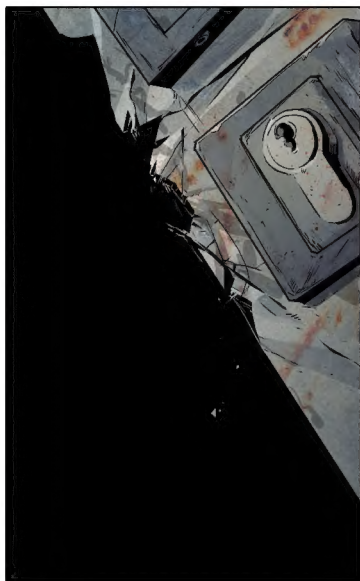
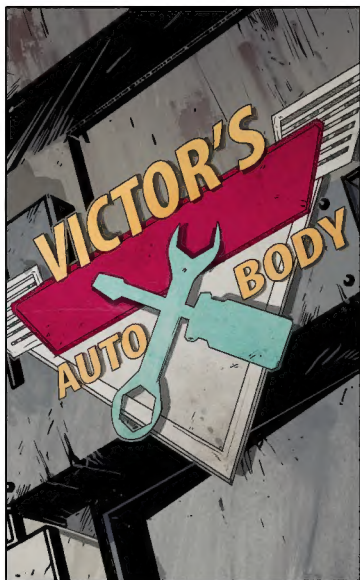
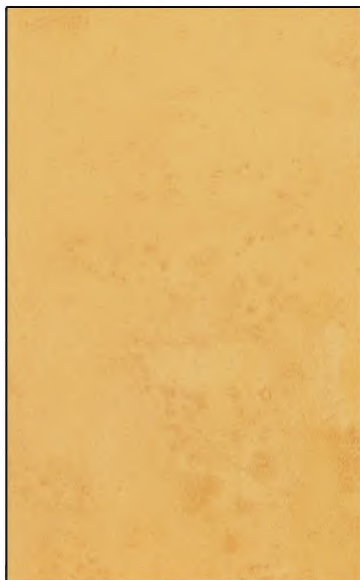
Publisher For Image Comics
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Jim Downing has resurfaced in a coma after the aftermath of bugs taking over New York. After a news broadcast, Spawn visits Chanel 7 WWRZ, the station where Wanda was heading the day she was killed. He meets the newscaster, who it turns out is actually a demon from Hell. After finding out Wanda is in the Tunnel, he seeks out Michael, who tells him he needs a willing angel and demon to be a 'key' to unlock the entrance. Al enlists Michael's help. Al then goes to a seedy strip joint and finds one of his biggest enemies, the Clown, who he strikes a deal with. If the Clown helps Spawn get through The Tunnel, Spawn will give him enough power to shape shift again. But what Spawn doesn't realize, is that Clown already has that power.





"SHE NEVER
HAD A
CHANCE.

"NEVER."



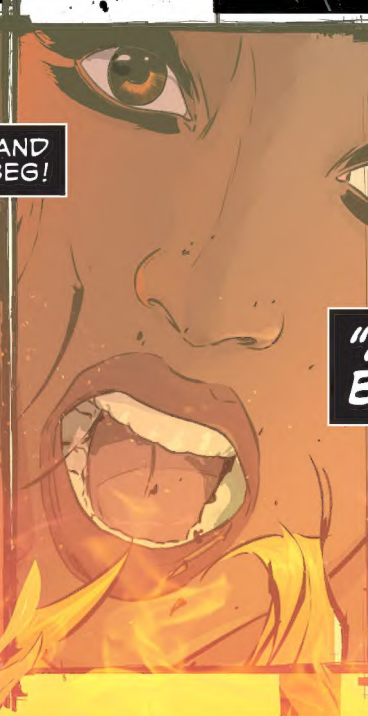
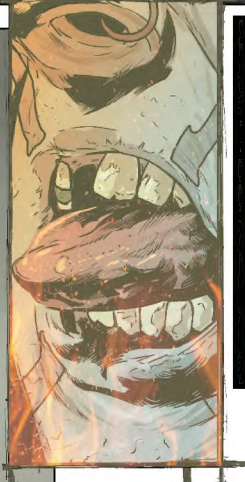
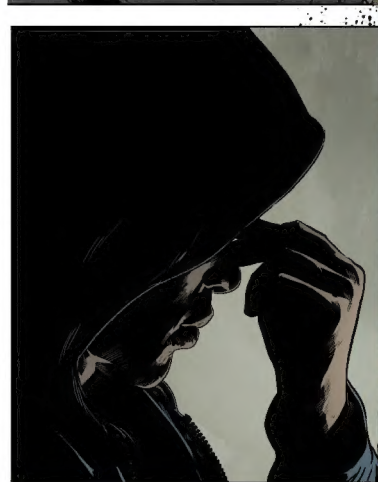


"INSTEAD THEY
JUST WATCHED..."



"...AND LET HER
SCREAM AND BURN..."







"UNTIL THE
FLAMES TORE
HER APART."



AL?--
WE NEED
TO GO. WE
SHOULDN'T
BE HERE.



YOU'RE
WRONG.
THIS IS
EXACTLY
WHERE I
NEED TO
BE.



THOSE
SIRENS. THEY'RE
HEADED THIS
WAY. YOU NEED TO
STOP TORTURING
YOURSELF LIKE
THIS.

PLEASE.



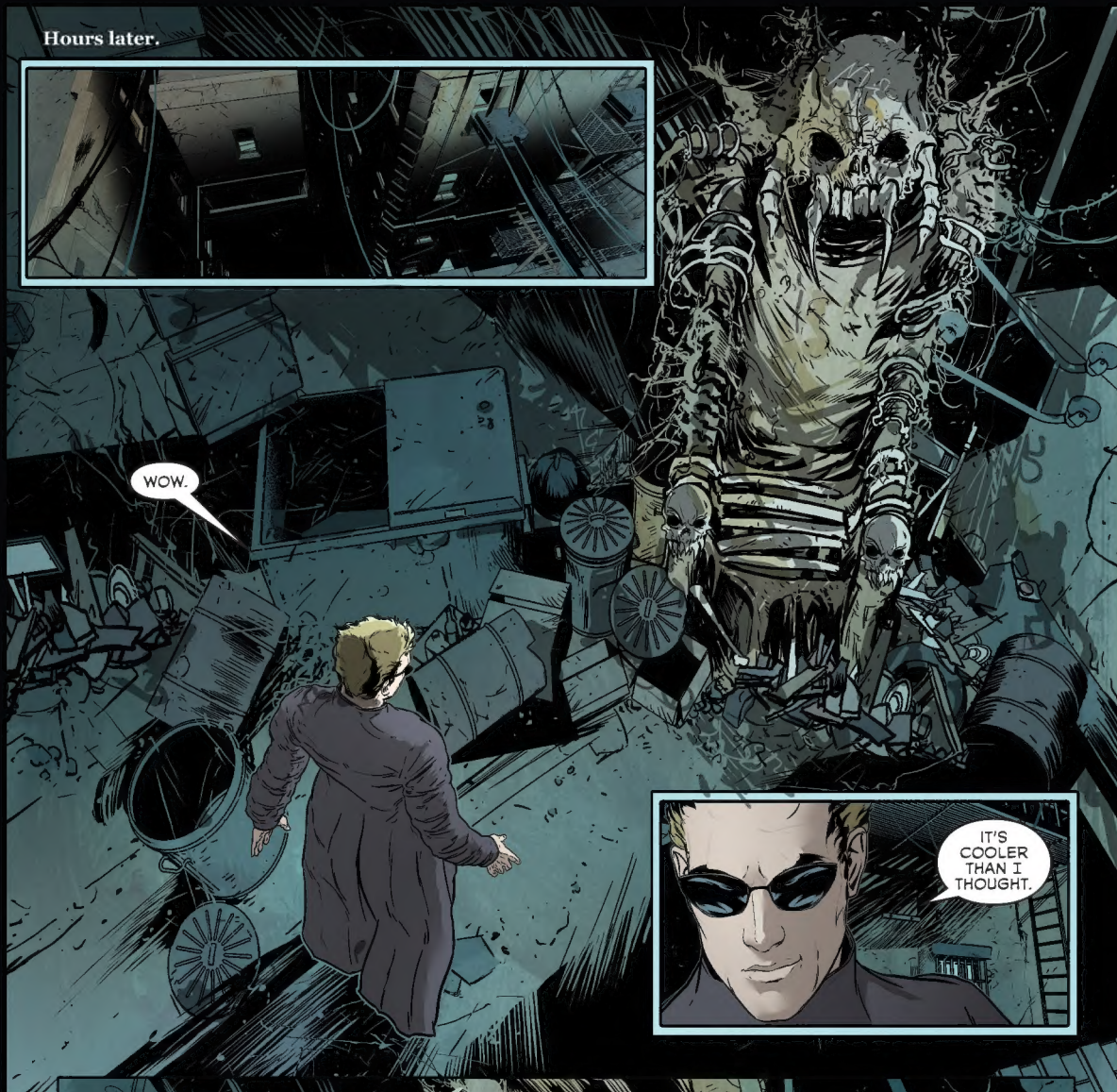
FREEZE!
PUT YOUR HANDS
WHERE WE...?

WHERE'D
THEY GO!?



HOLY SHIT!

Hours later.



WOW.

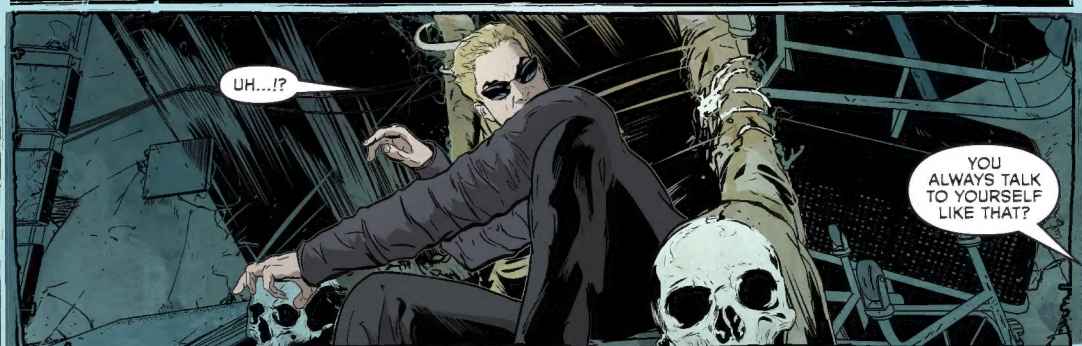


IT'S
COOLER
THAN I
THOUGHT.



NO WONDER
HE ACTS LIKE
SUCH A BAD-ASS.
I WOULD TOO, IF
THIS WAS MINE.

BOO!



UH...!?

YOU
ALWAYS TALK
TO YOURSELF
LIKE THAT?



OR DO YOU DO IT BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS?

I'D LEAVE RIGHT NOW IF I WERE YOU, CLOWN.

CAN'T. I'M WAITING FOR A FRIEND.

NOT HERE YOU AREN'T.

IS THAT HIS THRONE?

WHAT...?

THE THING YOU'RE SITTING ON. THAT'S HIS THRONE, RIGHT?

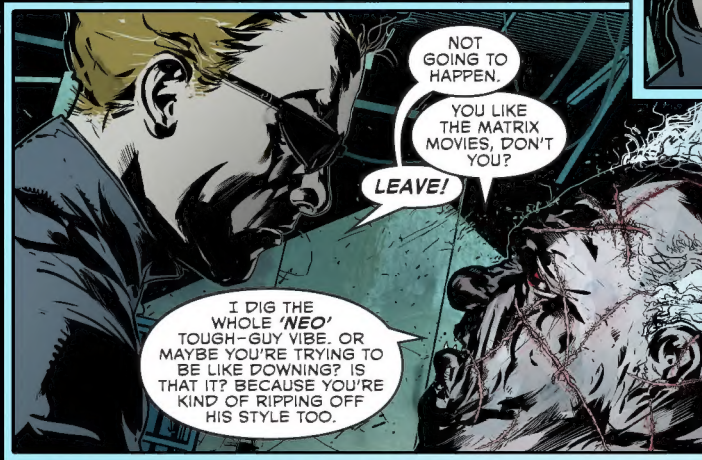
I THINK SO.



GOOD. I'M IN THE RIGHT PLACE. BUT I CAN SEE BY THAT DIPSHIT LOOK OF YOURS, AL DIDN'T TELL YOU, DID HE?

TELL ME WHAT?

THAT WHATEVER YOU BOYS ARE UP TO--- I GET TO BE A PART OF IT TOO.



NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

YOU LIKE THE MATRIX MOVIES, DON'T YOU?

LEAVE!

I DIG THE WHOLE 'NEO' TOUGH-GUY VIBE. OR MAYBE YOU'RE TRYING TO BE LIKE DOWNING? IS THAT IT? BECAUSE YOU'RE KIND OF RIPPING OFF HIS STYLE TOO.



OKAY...! THAT'S IT!



I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!

AND WINGS, TOO! DEFINITELY A JIM DOWNING RIPOFF! FORGET WHAT I SAID ABOUT MATRIX.



WE'RE GOING
TO THE 'DEAD ZONE'
AND YOU TWO ARE
GOING TO GET ME
THROUGH IT.



WE
STEP ACROSS
THAT LINE--
WE ALL LOSE
OUR
POWERS.

THIS TIME
WILL BE
DIFFERENT.

WHY'S
THAT?

BECAUSE
AL KNOWS
HE HAS
THE RIGHT
COMBO--
THE
THREE H'S.

HELL

HEAVEN

AND A HUMAN





FOLLOW ME. WE NEED TO HEAD THIS DIRECTION.



I DON'T, THOUGH WE DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE.

BUT I'LL TAKE THE LEAD, NOT YOU, CLOWN.




WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?



AND FROM MY PERSPECTIVE... I DON'T GIVE A CRAP IF YOU WERE BORN HERE. SO LOSE THE ATTITUDE.





ALL IN GOOD
TIME, DEAR ENEMY. ALL
IN GOOD TIME.

THOSE OF US
WHO'VE DWELLED IN
DARKNESS OUR ENTIRE
EXISTENCE, UNDERSTAND
HOW TO BE PATIENT WHEN
SETTING OUR TRAPS.

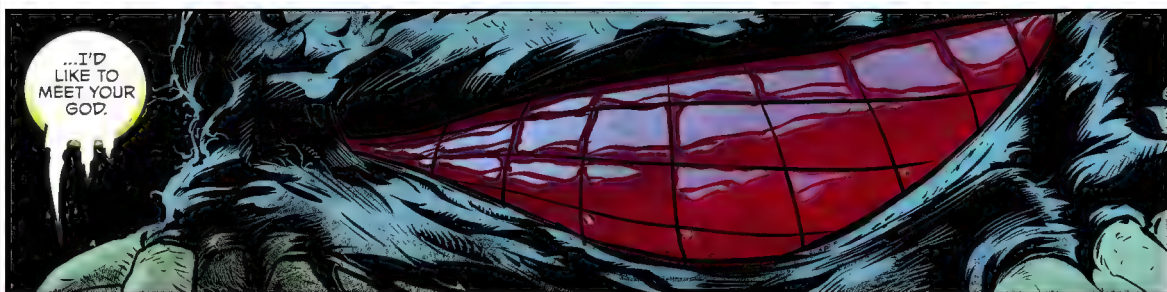
BIDING
TIME FOR JUST
THE RIGHT
MOMENT.



I CAN'T
WAIT! AND I
HOPE BEFORE
THIS IS ALL
OVER--YOU TRY
SOMETHING!
SOMETHING
BIG!

BECAUSE
YOUR SIDE ISN'T
THE ONLY ONES WITH
'CHANGELINGS.' AND
NONE OF YOU HAS
BEEN BLESSED
WITH THE 'WRATH
OF GOD!'

SOME
DAY...



Hours later:

IT'S A
DEAD-END.
SOME KIND
OF WALL.
SO HOW DO
WE GET
AROUND
THIS,
CLOWN?

WE DON'T.
WE CLIMB
IT.

FOR HOW
LONG?

UNTIL WE
GET TO THE
TOP. I'VE NEVER
BEEN THIS DEEP
BEFORE. WE WERE
ALWAYS FORBIDDEN
TO. SO THIS IS
ALL NEW TO ME
TOO. I'M JUST
FOLLOWING
THE MAP.





IS
THIS THE
TOP?

NOT
ACCORDING
TO YOUR
CHEST. BUT
WE'RE
GETTING
CLOSER.

AL...
YOU MAY
WANT TO
LOOK
BEHIND
YOU.



HOW'S
THAT SOUND
YOU WERE
TALKING
ABOUT?

IT'S GETTING
A WHOLE LOT
LOUDER!

GOOD.
LET'S
GO.



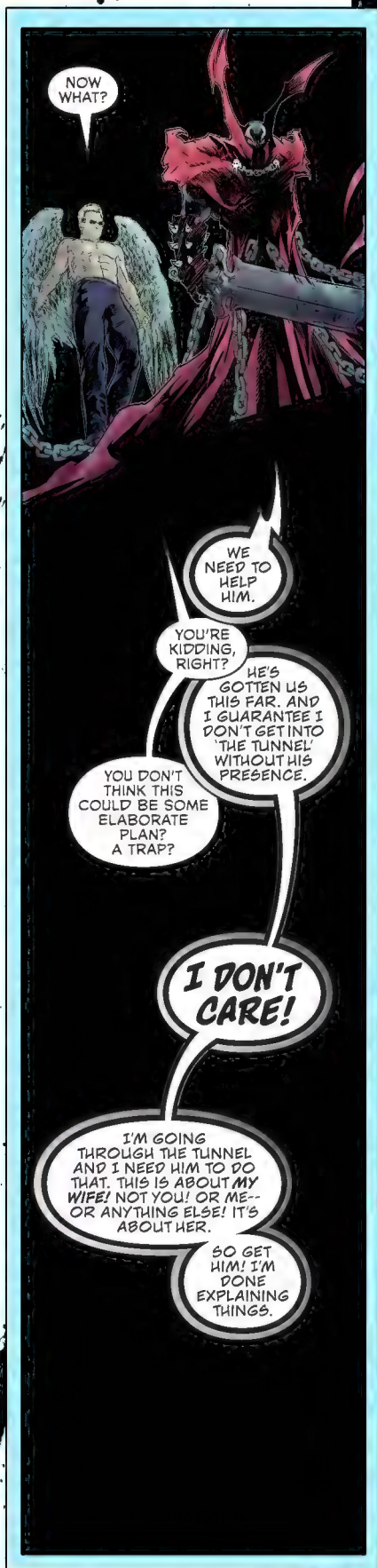
WAIT!
YOU THINK
WE CAN
JUST WALK
UP TO...



SHOO



CLOWN?



NOW
WHAT?

WE
NEED TO
HELP
HIM.

YOU'RE
KIDDING,
RIGHT?

HE'S
GOTTEN US
THIS FAR. AND
I GUARANTEE I
DON'T GET INTO
'THE TUNNEL'
WITHOUT HIS
PRESENCE.

YOU DON'T
THINK THIS
COULD BE SOME
ELABORATE
PLAN?
A TRAP?

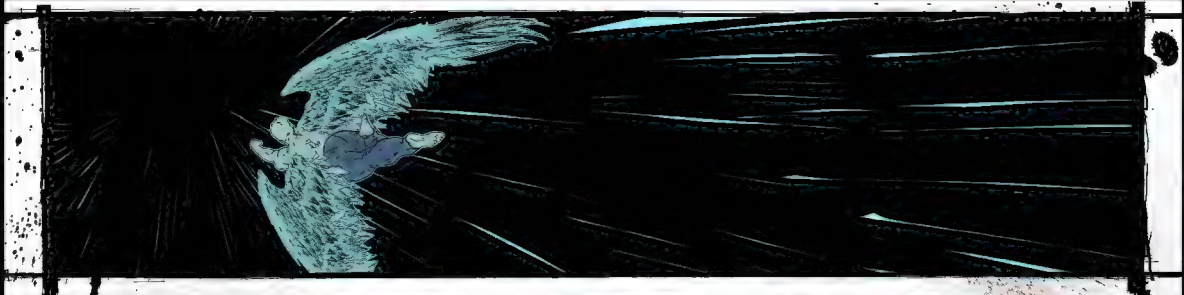
**I DON'T
CARE!**

I'M GOING
THROUGH THE TUNNEL
AND I NEED HIM TO DO
THAT. THIS IS ABOUT MY
WIFE! NOT YOU! OR ME--
OR ANYTHING ELSE! IT'S
ABOUT HER.

SO GET
HIM! I'M
DONE
EXPLAINING
THINGS.



SHIT.

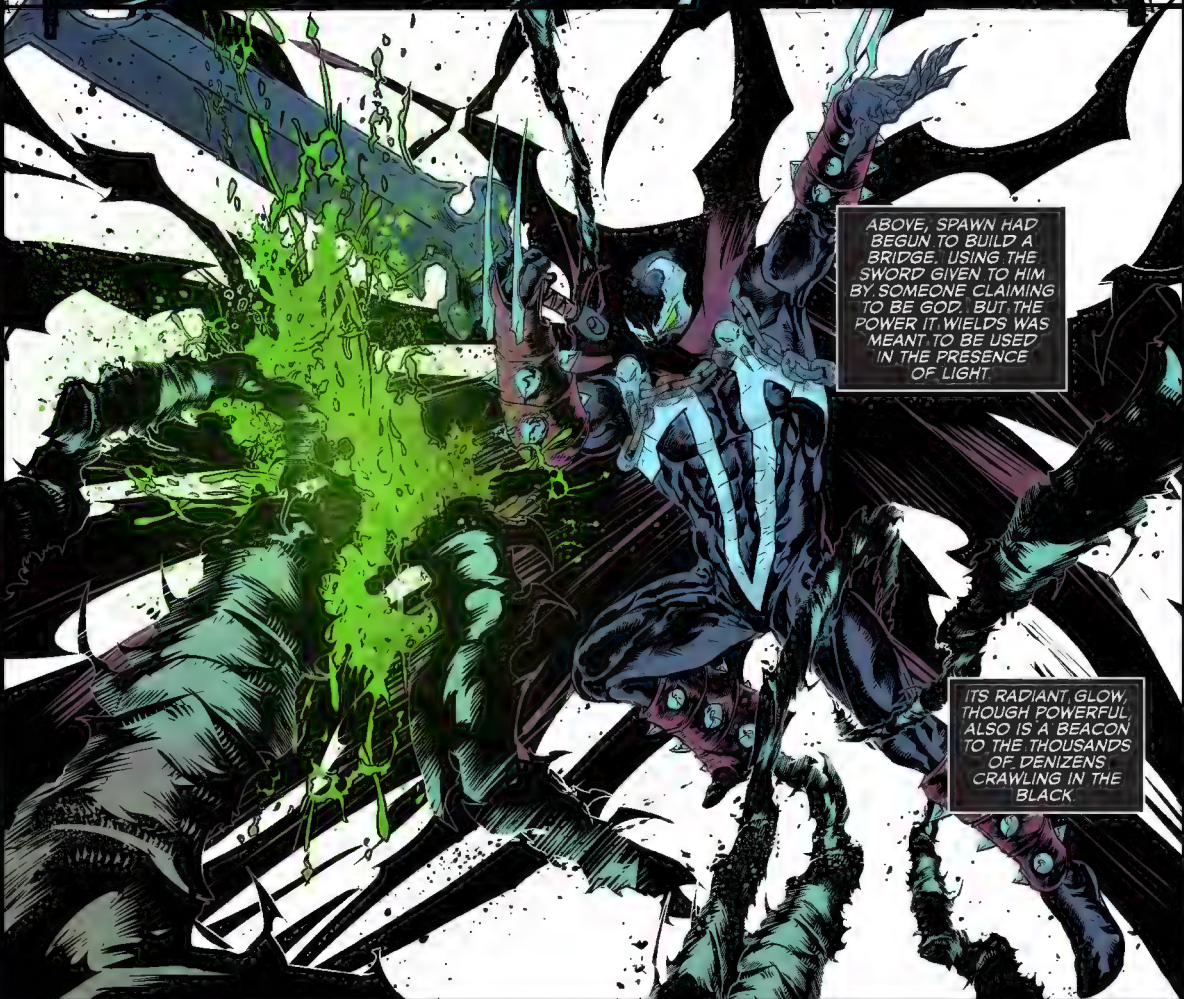


LIKE A HUMAN BULLET
HE FLIES DOWN,
DEEPER, AND DEEPER—
INTO THE SILENT ABYSS.

THEN HE SEES IT--TWO RED
SPECKS OF LIGHT TUMBLING
IN THE DARK. THEY'RE THE
EYES OF HIS SWORN ENEMY.



GOTCHA!



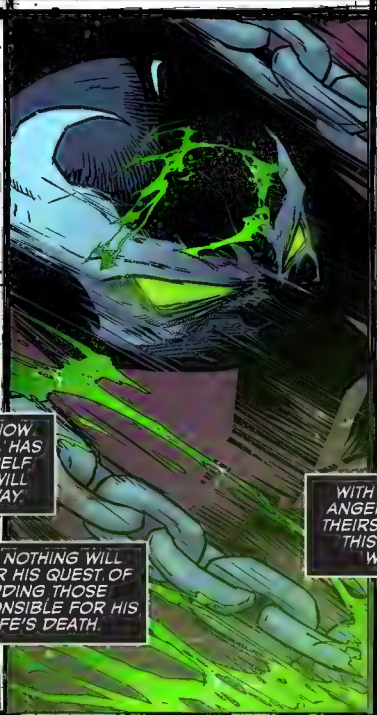
ABOVE, SPAWN HAD
BEGUN TO BUILD A
BRIDGE, USING THE
SWORD GIVEN TO HIM
BY SOMEONE CLAIMING
TO BE GOD. BUT THE
POWER IT WIELDS WAS
MEANT TO BE USED
IN THE PRESENCE
OF LIGHT.

ITS RADIANT, GLOW,
THOUGH POWERFUL,
ALSO IS A BEACON
TO THE THOUSANDS
OF DENIZENS
CRAWLING IN THE
BLACK.



BUT THIS MAN, NOW
CLOAKED IN RED, HAS
PROMISED HIMSELF
THAT NOTHING WILL
STAND IN HIS WAY.

THAT NOTHING WILL
IMPAIR HIS QUEST OF
FINDING THOSE
RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS
WIFE'S DEATH.



WITH SAVAGERY AND
ANGER GREATER THAN
THEIRS, THEY ATTACKED
THIS SPAWN AT THE
WRONG TIME.



THERE
IT IS...

THE
GATEWAY.





BOTH OF YOU--YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOB, FIND YOUR WAY BACK AND RETURN TO EARTH.

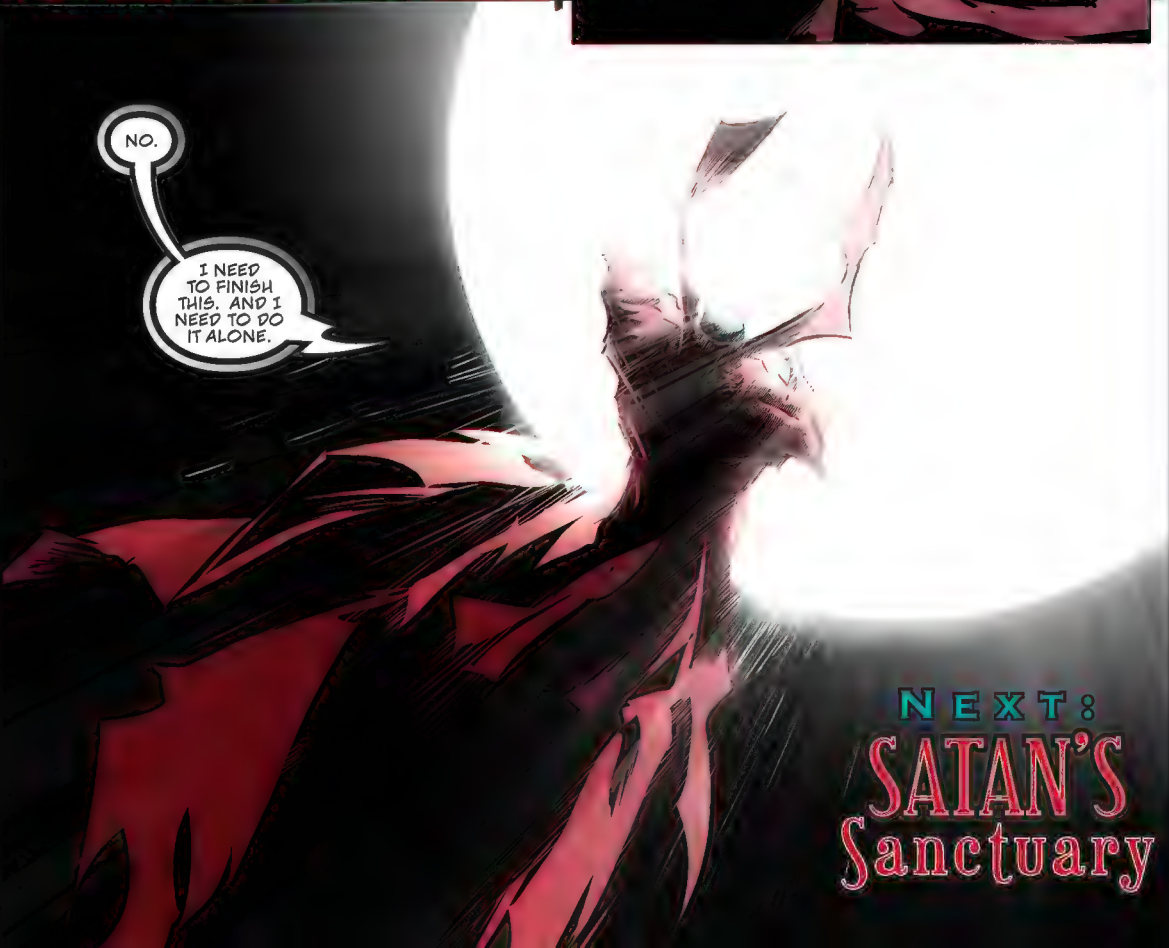
NOT BEFORE YOU DELIVER WHAT YOU SAID. YOU PROMISED TO GIVE ME SOME OF YOUR POWER.



THEN HERE! TAKE IT! IT'S THE LAST FAVOR YOU'LL EVER GET FROM ME!



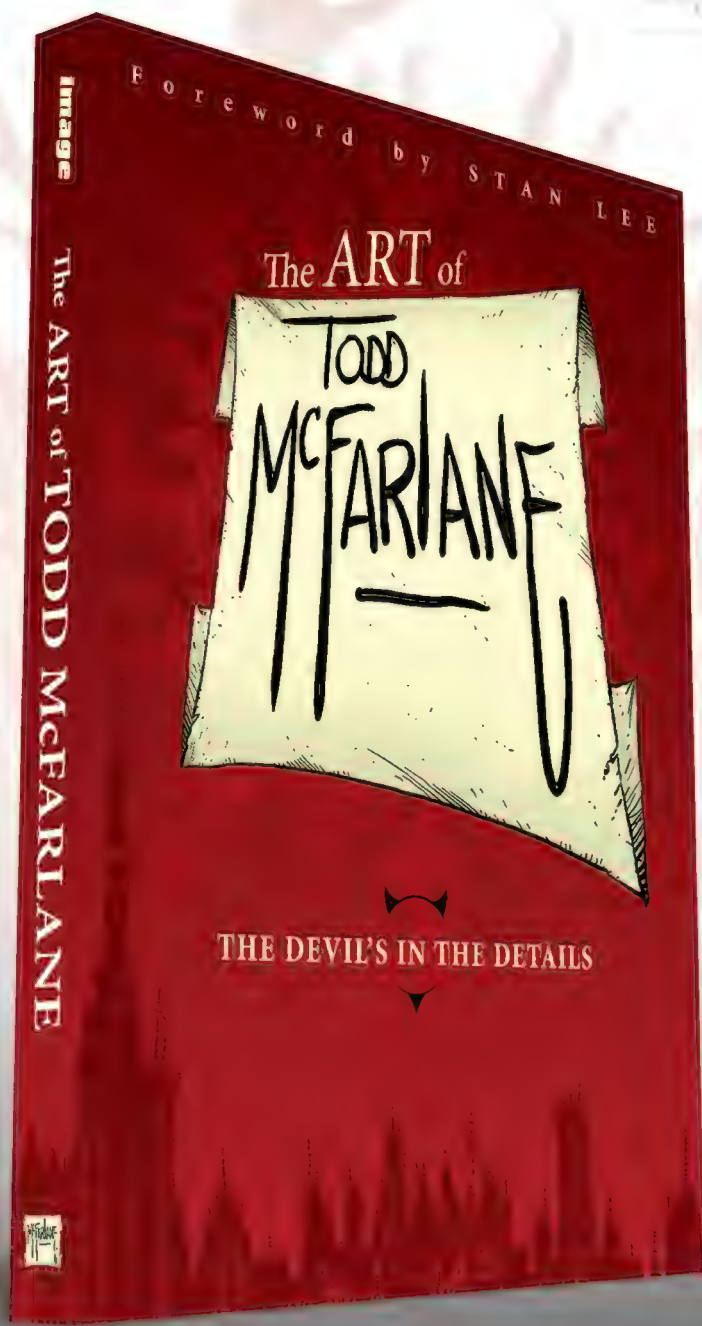
AL, LET ME COME WITH YOU. I CAN HELP.



NO.

I NEED TO FINISH THIS. AND I NEED TO DO IT ALONE.

NEXT:
SATAN'S
Sanctuary



**SOFT
COVER
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IN STORES
NOW**

THE ART OF TODD MCFARLANE: THE DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS IS A VISUAL BIOGRAPHY CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF ARTWORK FROM ONE OF THE COMIC INDUSTRY'S MOST POPULAR AND ICONIC ARTIST PERSONALITIES.

Follow McFarlane's creative output, starting at his formative years as a comic book fan mimicking his favorite artists all the way through his first published work and subsequent rise to comic book stardom. This book has it ALL: beloved DC and Marvel Comics characters, Todd's history making move of helping found Image Comics and subsequent introduction of his own creative brainchild, *Spawn*, plus art and sketches you've never seen before! Also, get an exclusive look at McFarlane's forays into various media (toys, film, animation, music videos, video games), putting his creative stamp on all of them with his signature eye-catching imagery.

DON'T MISS THE FIRST AND ONLY ART BOOK DOCUMENTING ONE OF THE COMIC INDUSTRY'S MOST LEGENDARY ARTISTS.

SPAWNING GROUND

letterspage@mcFarlane.com

P.O. Box 12230
Tempe, AZ 85284-0038

twitter.com/Todd_McFarlane
www.facebook.com/liketoddmcFarlane

Hello all,

This month has been a busy one for Todd and McFarlane Toys! If you haven't heard, Todd is teaming up with Erik Larsen on at least SIX issues of *Spawn*!!! Being two of the original founders of Image Comics, this announcement is taking the comic world by storm. There has already been some great feedback from fans of both artists. A lot of people are excited to see the meshing of two great legends. What's even cooler, is between the two of them, they collectively have put out over 400 Image issues. That is a lot of talent and hard work for two comic book creators.

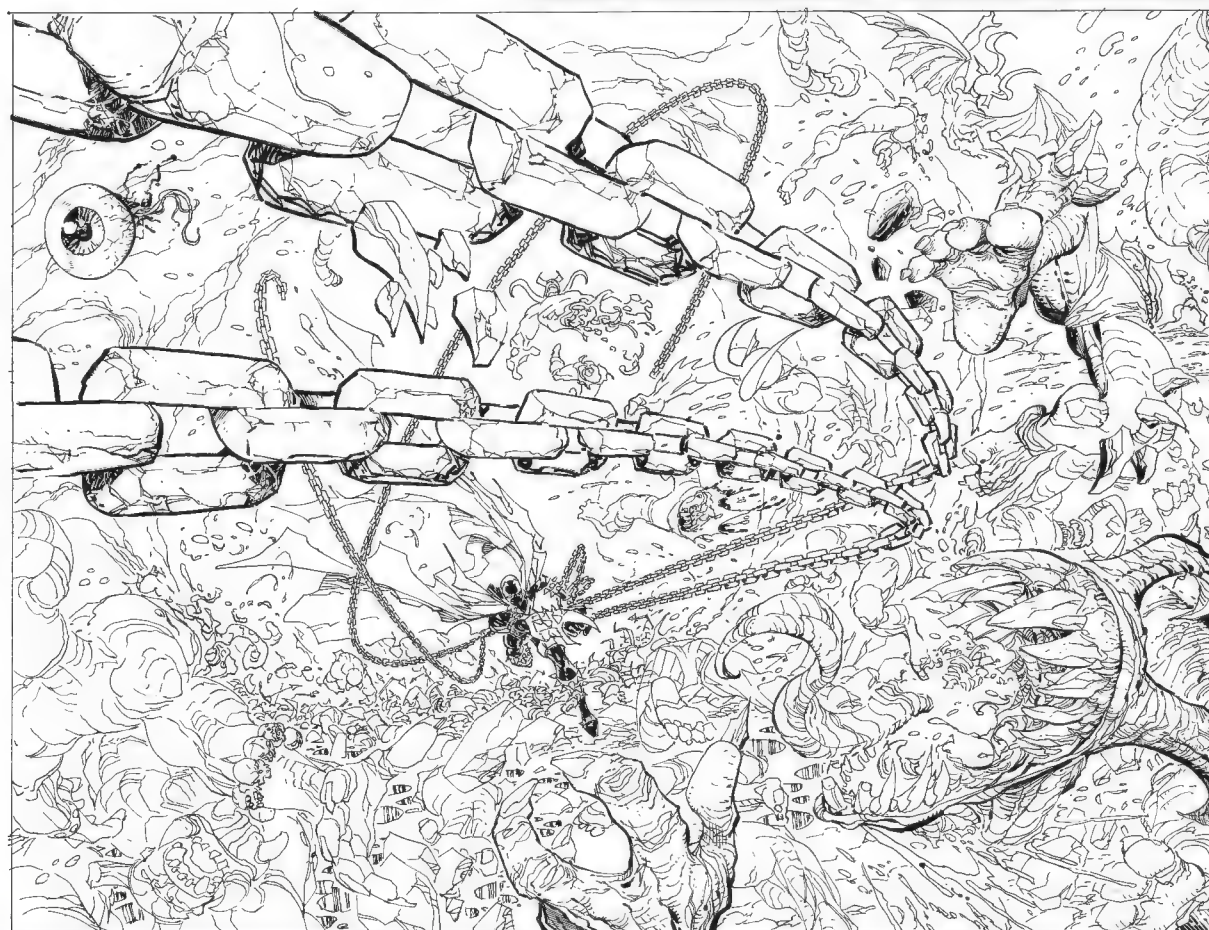
Todd constantly gets requests on his Facebook page (facebook.com/liketoddmcFarlane) to ink an entire issue and now the time is right and he's back on the book. He is very excited about working with Erik starting on issue #258. Erik and him will be working side by side (metaphorically speaking) on the comic, bouncing ideas off of each other. I can't wait for everyone to see the amazing art these two are producing together.

And if you haven't already started following Todd on his blog, now is a great time to start. He will be adding all kinds of extra images and previews of upcoming *Spawn* issues as well as giving advice to you budding artists and writers. His blog can be found on our new McFarlane website at mcfarlane.com.

To celebrate this epic partnership, this month's Spawning Ground is dedicated to the dynamic duo. We wanted to give our avid *Spawn* fans a preview of some upcoming art for *Spawn* #258.

Maybe next month, we can get Erik to do a quick interview! What do you all think?

Enjoy!
Shannon Bailey
Publishing Coordinator



NEXT ISSUE

Erik Larsen jumps on board as Spawn makes his way through The Tunnel!

Above: Sample pages of Erik Larsen's art work for *Spawn* #258.

“Visually stunning.

An insightful, yet horrific look into cults and the bonds that connect family... Brian Buccellato and Toni Infante have created an intriguing new world. You'll hang onto every word and Infante's art pulls you into the story. Simply put, I want more. You will as well.” —*Comic Vine*

BRIAN BUCCELLATO

TONI INFANTE

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“Sons of the Devil is the kind of dramatic horror that fans need... The character depth and mysterious plot elements also make this a series worth picking up, along with the amazing art, it's bound to leave readers eager for more.” —Unleash the Fanboy

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The ENTIRE *Spawn* comic library and *Spawn Origins Collection* Volumes 1 – 20 is now available in digital format from ComiXology, iBooks, Google Play, and imagecomics.com. Fans can immerse themselves with 23 years and 250+ issues of *Spawn* with the simple swipe of a fingertip. *Spawn* is one of the world's best-selling and longest-running independent monthly comic books, known for its hyper-detailed art from its creator, **Todd McFarlane**. Now you can read the entire series wherever you are.

ALL ISSUES
AVAILABLE NOW DIGITALLY



MARJORIE LIU

SANA TAKEDA

MONSTRESS™



Steampunk meets Kaiju as one girl is caught in a violent war between humans and monsters.

The battle begins this November.

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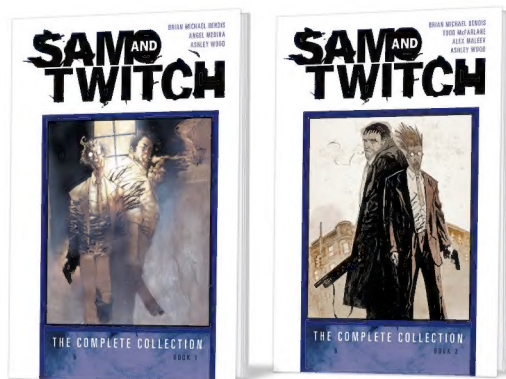


HARD-EDGED CRIME FICTION... WITH A TWIST.

From the dark streets and dirtiest corners of New York City comes two of the most dedicated detectives of the NYPD: Sam and Twitch. Direct from the pages of Todd McFarlane's best-selling comic, *Spawn*, these unlikely heroes have a penchant for being in the right place at the wrong time.

Dive in as Brian Michael Bendis (*Jinx*, *Ultimate Spider-man*) and artists Angel Medina (*Spawn*, *The Amazing Spider-man*), Alberto Ponticelli (*Unknown Soldier*), Clayton Crain (*Ghost Rider*) and Alex Maleev (*Daredevil*) create a new dark vision of Manhattan. Ashley Wood (*Hellspawn*, *Popbot*) also lends his talents to further enhance the mood of the series with memorable cover art.

Sam and Twitch: The Complete Collection collects the entire groundbreaking series in two hardcover, oversized volumes. Sure to please fans of crime fiction and comic book fans alike, this collection also features an art gallery and a look behind-the-scenes with the series author, as well as an afterword with the series creator, Todd McFarlane.



SAM AND TWITCH: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION
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IN THE FUTURE TRUTH

JUST GETS IN THE WAY OF YOUR
HAPPINESS



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SYMMETRY™

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